

**BOBBY JINDAL**  
GOVERNOR



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**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

July 2, 2010

The Honorable Alfred W. Speer  
Clerk of the House  
State Capitol  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: House Bill No. 685 by Representative S. Jones

Dear Mr. Speer:

House Bill No. 685 would prevent any student under the age of 17 from enrolling in adult education. Today, with parental consent, the current policy of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education allows 16-year-olds to enroll in adult education programs if they meet certain conditions, such as family or economic hardship, chronic illness, incarceration, or institutionalization, among others.

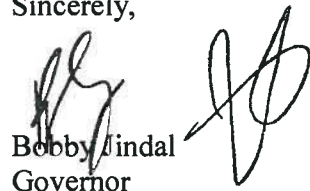
As drafted, House Bill No. 685 would no longer allow 16-year-olds who leave school with the consent of their parents to subsequently enroll in an adult education program. Unless incarcerated or ordered by a court, these young people would be forced to wait one year without this option.

I share the author's intent to reduce the number of dropouts in our schools and signed another piece of legislation sponsored by the author pertaining to the issue. Unfortunately, the approach taken in House Bill No. 685 is not as targeted as other pieces of legislation that also passed this session.

Specifically, I prefer the approach taken in Senate Bill No. 297 by Senator Donahue and House Bill No. 1055 by Representative Richmond, which will allow 16-year-olds to enter *only* those adult education programs that have "demonstrated a proven record of student progress...as determined by quality indicators and performance-based criteria" adopted by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System Board of Supervisors.

I believe these new laws should be given time to take effect before we consider simply prohibiting all 16-year-olds from entering adult education programs. For this reason, I have vetoed House Bill No. 685 and hereby return it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,



Bobby Jindal  
Governor